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R. M. WHITE & SON, LEDGER, Mexico, Mo.

MEXICO WEEKLY LEDGER

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MEXICO, AUDRAIN COUNTY, MISSOURI, THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1917

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AT THE END OF THE DAY

We come to Thee, our Heavenly Father, for grace to do the things which Thou hast commanded us to do. We have failed and we have sinned; and our hope is in Thy mercy toward us and in Thy patience with us. Not in ourselves, but in Thee do we trust. Deepen that trust, O God, and make it the bond that binds us to Thee. Amen.

SPEAKER CLARK'S POSITION ON THE WAR

WHEN the question of declaring war — which was one of the most important matters within the writer's recollection that has come before Congress — was to be voted on by that body, as far as we can learn, Speaker Clark did not vote on the proposition at all. A dispatch from Washington says:

"Speaker Clark today opposed the selective draft, and predicted it never would pass Congress, in receiving a delegation from the National Security League."

Several hundred petitions bearing a million names, asking Congress to adopt the administration plan, were laid before the Speaker.

"Conscription never will pass, in my opinion," he said. "I am for letting the flower and youth of this country volunteer before we fasten the disgrace of a draft upon them. The War Department is jumping around trying to bulldoze the people into passing this bill, and I don't think they are going to do it."

The country is being flooded by the Government, with requests that farmers, bankers, business men and citizens generally co-operate and participate in the strenuous war undertaking by this country in behalf of the freedom of the world, and our mail is flooded daily with official requests, asking us to publish articles along this line.

What we want to know is whether we are really in earnest about the war, or not. What is the use of the people being called on to co-operate when our Representatives at Washington are divided regarding the matter? If the Government is to be divided against itself, the sooner we get it out, the better.

Along this line the St. Louis Republic editorially says:

"When Speaker Clark says, 'I am for letting the flower and youth of this country volunteer before we fasten the disgrace of a draft upon them,' he assumes that a draft of the kind contemplated by the bill now before Congress is disgraceful."

"The assumption is indefensible. Are all the men of Switzerland perpetually in disgrace because the duty which they owe to their Government is defined by law? Nobody would say they are, and if Congress at once enacted a law defining the duty of the American man nobody would be disgraced. On the contrary, the men selected to serve will be honored as the choice of their country."

"Mr. Clark does not represent the views of the people of Missouri when he urges the volunteer system as a consistent means of meeting the present emergency. It is to be regretted that he has seen fit to throw the weight of his great popularity and influence in Congress on the side of the slanders at this critical time."

At least ninety per cent of the citizens of the Ninth Congressional District of Missouri favor the selective draft, and endorse the war policies of President Wilson.

REFERRING to the "aid and comfort given to the enemy" by some of the people's representatives at Washington City, the St. Joseph News-Press editorially says: "Of course nobody questions the patriotism of the Lower House of Congress. But its common sense is on trial in this matter of a selective draft."

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